

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06PORTAUPRINCE2230, COLLEAGUE CHRONICLES CORRUPTION OF YOURI LATORTUE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06PORTAUPRINCE2230**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06PORTAUPRINCE2230	2006-11-20 18:20	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Port Au Prince

Appears in these articles:

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VZCZCXRO4242
PP RUEHQ
DE RUEHPU #2230/01 3241820
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 201820Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4624
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1288
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1125
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 0621
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1033

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 002230

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/EX AND WHA/CAR
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
WHA/EX PLEASEPASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2016
TAGS: PGOV PREL HA
SUBJECT: COLLEAGUE CHRONICLES CORRUPTION OF YOURI LATORTUE

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 01407

PORT AU PR 00002230 001.2 OF 002
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Classified By: Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Senator Youri Latortue may well be the most brazenly corrupt of leading Haitian politicians, according to a colleague. The XXXXXXXXXXXX recently shared with poloffs his concerns regarding Latortue's illegal or otherwise unsavory activities in the port city of Gonaives and other areas of the Artibonite. Latortue's family connections play a part in his ability to manipulate the region, as do his close associations with armed gangs and drug traffickers. End Summary.

¶2. (C) On November 9, Poloffs met with XXXXXXXXXXXX (protect), XXXXXXXXXXXX. XXXXXXXXXXXX has been in this XXXXXXXXXXXX position for approximately XXXXXXXXXXXX, serving as XXXXXXXXXXXX. The IGc and he is unsure whether or not XXXXXXXXXXXX. The First Senator from the Artibonite is Youri Latortue, of the Artibonite in Action party. XXXX activities in the region, particularly in the city of Gonaives.

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Latortue Family Ties  
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¶3. (SBU) The Latortue family is crawling all over Haitian politics. Youri is a first cousin once-removed of former IGoH Prime Minister Gerard Latortue. Youri's sister is the former mayor of Gonaives, and the former delegate to the region was a cousin of his as well. The administration filled Haiti's local and municipal offices by presidential appointment during the IGoH. Senator Latortue had influence over these appointments through his relation with IGoH Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, and managed to place members of his party in most positions around the Artibonite. The senator used these people to consolidate his power and influence in the region until the new delegate to the Artibonite appointed new local and regional officials who were not in the back pocket of Senator Latortue.

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Senator Running Drug and Gang Activities in Gonaives?  
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¶4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX likened Senator Latortue's authority in the port city of Gonaives to that of a mafia boss. He claimed that the somewhat lethargic port and the drug and other contraband trafficking taking place there are completely under the Senator's command. The port in Gonaives is largely controlled by the Cannibal Army gang, which faces persistent competition from two other gangs, Des Cahos and

Jubile Blau. Senator Latortue exerts influence over all three groups and is thus able to maintain sway over dealings in the port. Senator Latortue's other businesses in Gonaives include a nightclub and movie theater, both of questionable legitimacy. Additionally, other sources such as SRSG Mulet have accused Latortue of being a "drug dealer" (ref A), and an oft-disruptive popular organization in St. Marc named "Bale Wouze" recently accused the senator of distributing weapons in an effort to destabilize the government. (Note: St. Hilien phoned the Embassy on November 16 to reinforce the Bale Wouze accusations, and also to report another incident in which Senator Latortue and friends were stealing telephone poles and utility boxes from Port-au-Prince for use in Gonaives. End Note.)

15. (C) After the large-scale flooding in the Artibonite in September, the central government allocated emergency food supplies to be distributed to the flood victims. XXXXXXXXXXXX reported that Senator Latortue intercepted the supplies and stashed them temporarily somewhere in Gonaives, and then took the supplies to the victims and acted as if he was personally responsible for the handouts.

16. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX recounted a story demonstrating Prime Minister Jacques Eduard-Alexis' distrust of Senator Latortue and his Artibonite in Action party. When a group of Artibonite in Action members sat behind the Prime Minister at a recent event to celebrate the anniversary of the city of Gonaives, he asked for them to be moved so they weren't so close to him. During the same event, Senator Latortue paid protestors to demonstrate and cause disruption to the ceremonies, according to XXXXXXXXXXXX. Senator Latortue often exploits local gangs for his own purposes in this way.

17. (C) Comment: Latortue's activities are a cause for concern given his presidential ambitions for 2011. Prime Minister Alexis has gone as far as to ask for the USG to "arrest him", as has Preval's advisor Bob Manuel. Post will provide septel a fuller profile of Latortue's background and policy implications for the USG. End Comment.  
SANDERSON